



HJ0006

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize those who contributed  
3 to the betterment of the State of Illinois through public  
4 service; and

5 WHEREAS, James Allen was born on December 28, 1960; his  
6 parents were Ken and Judy Allen; and

7 WHEREAS, James Allen's parents were both public servants;  
8 his father served as an Illinois State Trooper for 6 years and  
9 as a Volunteer Firefighter in Morris for 27 years; his mother  
10 served as a Health Technician for Grundy and Will Counties for  
11 24 years; and

12 WHEREAS, James Allen was raised and educated in Morris  
13 School District 54 and spent many days at the firehouse with  
14 his father; as a young adult, he took a position with the City  
15 of Morris Public Works Department; and

16 WHEREAS, James Allen became a Morris Volunteer Firefighter  
17 at the age of 21, which at that time was the youngest age  
18 allowed to join the fire department; and

19 WHEREAS, To be a member of the Fire Department in Morris is  
20 a greatly desired and very noble status to achieve; the Morris

1 Fire Department is highly respected in the fire service and  
2 James Allen knew that being a member required honor and  
3 sacrifice; and

4 WHEREAS, James Allen married Donna Brown; together, they  
5 had a son, Kenneth James Allen; and

6 WHEREAS, On March 18, 1985, James Allen responded with his  
7 fellow firefighters to a reported house fire on West Southmor  
8 Road in Morris; he and 2 other firefighters advanced a hose  
9 line down into the basement to the seat of the fire; and

10 WHEREAS, The second fire company was in the process of  
11 cutting a ventilation hole on the first floor when a back draft  
12 occurred in the basement; 2 of the firefighters were able to  
13 make it to the exit; however, James Allen did not emerge with  
14 the other firefighters; and

15 WHEREAS, Several attempts were made to re-enter the  
16 basement with additional hose lines in an attempt to rescue  
17 James Allen, which were unfortunately unsuccessful; and

18 WHEREAS, James Allen's son, Kenneth James Allen, was 3  
19 years old when his father gave his life in the line of duty;  
20 and

1           WHEREAS, A life-like statue of James Allen stands in a  
2 local park dedicated to his memory; the name of the donor has  
3 never been made public; and

4           WHEREAS, The base of the statue is inscribed "James Allen  
5 Embodied the Essence of America's Volunteer Spirit ... The  
6 Volunteer Fireman ... A Morris Volunteer Fireman ... Totally  
7 Committed ... A Man of Self-Sacrifice and Courage ... A Bearer  
8 of Noble Spirit ... A Premier Public Servant ... Killed in The  
9 Line of Duty Fighting a Fire March 18, 1985 at age 24";  
10 therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
13 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the section of  
14 Illinois Route 47 over the CSX Railway in Morris between High  
15 Street and Benton Street as the Firefighter James Allen  
16 Memorial Highway; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
18 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
19 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
20 giving notice of the name of the Firefighter James Allen  
21 Memorial Highway; and be it further

22           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Firefighter James Allen, the Morris  
2 Fire Protection and Ambulance District, the Mayor of the City  
3 of Morris, and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of  
4 Transportation.